

REMARKS

Claims 1-21 are cancelled without prejudice. Claim 22 is amended and new claims 25-49 are presented. Claims 22-49 are currently pending. Reconsideration of the application in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

I. ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the Examiner's indication that claims 22-24 are directed to allowable subject matter.

II. CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102(B)

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1-5, 7, 8, 10-21 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Carignan et al. (USP 4,955,916). Applicant has cancelled the claims without prejudice. Therefore, Applicant requests that the rejection of claims 1-5, 7, 8, 10-21 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) be withdrawn.

III. CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103(A)

The Examiner has rejected Claims 5 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable. Claim 5 was rejected over Carignan et al. (USP 4,955,906) as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Lal Sachdeva et al., (USP 5,584,695). Claim 9 was rejected over Carignan et al (USP 4,955,906) as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Tullos et al. (USP 5,658,338). Applicant has cancelled the claims without prejudice. Therefore, Applicant requests that the rejection of claims 5 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

IV. CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 101

The Examiner has rejected claims 2-4 under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as drawn to non-statutory subject matter (Office Action, page 2). Claims 2-4 have been cancelled without prejudice rendering the rejection moot. Therefore, Applicant requests that the Examiner withdraw his rejection under § 101.

V. NEWLY PRESENTED CLAIMS

Applicant has presented new claims 25-49. Newly presented claims 25-49 depend directly or indirectly from a claim that the Examiner previously identified as allowable if rewritten to include the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim. Therefore, Applicant believes that the newly presented claims 25-49 are also allowable.

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant requests the Examiner allow claims 22-49 and advance the application to issuance.


FEE AUTHORIZATION

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, including petition fees and extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. **23-2415** (Docket No. 29914-701.402).

Respectfully submitted,

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By:



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